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# Apex Park Anti-Aircraft Gun

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## Location

Glendinning Street and Stirling Street BALMORAL, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 1, 2003

### What is significant?

The Apex Park is located at the junction of Stirling and Glendinning Streets in the centre of the township of Balmoral. It is the site of the earliest Hotel in Balmoral, dating from 1851. This Hotel was known as the Squatter's Arms Hotel (also known as Davidson's Hotel and Lang's Hotel). The Apex park has several important objects within it, including the Billis water trough to the far north of the site and the MK11 anti-aircraft gun located on the east of the site facing Stirling Street.

### How is it significant?

The Apex Park, Balmoral is of social, archaeological and historical significance to the township of Balmoral and the Southern Grampians Shire.

### Why is it significant?

The Apex Park is of historical significance to the township of Balmoral as it was the site of the earliest and perhaps most important Hotel in Balmoral. It is historically significant for its associations with individuals such as Davidson and Lang who owned the Hotel at subsequent periods and were important local people. It has historical importance for its location at the junction of the two main roads which have intersected Balmoral from the 1840s, the roads to Adelaide and Hamilton. The objects within the Park are also historically important. The Billis Horse Trough is associated with the important philanthropist Billis who donated 70 000 horse troughs throughout Australia to improve the plight of horses in the street. On another level, Billis' horse troughs are historically important as a representative object of a past way of life where animals were the main method of transport.

The MK11 anti aircraft gun is historically important as a reminder of the part Australia and Australians played in World War Two. The gun is historically and socially important as it was donated to the community by the Returned Soldiers League as a reminder of those that served and fell in World War Two. The fact that this gun

was used to defend Australia when under attack in 1942-1943 makes the gun more important as a part of our history.

The Apex Park is of archaeological significance for any physical fabric which may remain of the former Hotel.

The Apex Park is important socially as it demonstrates members of a community working together for a common good.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1960,
Other Names	MCKINNON'S INN, LANG'S INN, SQUATTER'S ARMS HOTEL, DAVIDSON'S INN,
Hermes Number	125526
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

Fair

## Physical Description 1

Apex Park is a large roughly square site in the centre of Balmoral. It is located on the junction of Glendinning and Stirling Streets, the extension of which are the roads to Adelaide and Hamilton. The Park is planted with low native shrubs set in beds surrounded by timber restraints. The whole area is covered in mown turf. There are several objects within the park, including a Billis Horse Trough in the northern corner and an MK 11 anti aircraft gun used in Darwin in the Second World War is situated on the southern boundary of the park. There is a rustic shadehouse in the centre of the park constructed from local timbers with ferns inside it.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.8.7 Building and maintaining roads

3.22 Lodging people

3.23 Catering for tourists

Theme 8: Developing Australia's Cultural Life

8.1 Organising recreation

8.1.13 Developing public parks and gardens

8.8 Remembering the fallen

## Usage/Former Usage

public park

## Integrity

one as the former hotel site

## Physical Description 2

J.J. Watson - first owner

Mr. Davidson - first proprietor of the hotel (The Squatters Arms Hotel)

John Lang - second proprietor of the hotel (Lang's Hotel)

Apex Club

### **Veterans Description for Public**

Apex Park is a large roughly square site in the centre of Balmoral. It is located on the junction of Glendinning and Stirling Streets, the extension of which are the roads to Adelaide and Hamilton. Located along the southern boundary of the park is an MK 11 anti-aircraft gun used in Darwin between 1942 and 1943. In 1985, the Second World War gun, of a type first produced in 1938, was donated by the Balmoral RSL. It was made in Canada by G.E. Co. in 1940.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*